

Sometime in September, 1976, we were told we would be parents approximately May 10, 1977. Who would have believed on May 10, in less than an hour from the time we arrived at the Frankfurt Hospital you were born!

We had researched our chosen names and daddy's name won because of a boy baby.

Zuberi Aswad. An African name from the Swahili language. Zuberi meaning Strong and Aswad meaning Black.

You grew quickly and learned lots. The first song you learned was, "Yes Jesus Loves Me."

Looking back over eighteen years you accomplished a great deal here on Earth. Your rambunctious sports years started at age three when you played on the Rowdies Soccer Team. You were skiing downhill at age five. You played football, baseball, tennis, percussion instruments in the band, piano, was on a swim team and played lots and lots of basketball, ending up on the Heidelberg Varsity Basketball team.

You were very inquisitive as a student and often challenged teachers, including us as parents. That was good . . . at times.

You always made friends easily and always had lots of them. We always noticed the characteristics of the ones you chose to keep as your Closest friends. They were always mannerable, had a great sense of humor, had a goal in life and most importantly as you once said, "Couldn't be broke all the time."

You got to live a very adventurous life on two continents. Visiting many different countries and states. Experiencing almost every mode of travel possible. You always believed in fun. You had it and we enjoyed having fun with you.

We are very unhappy right now because we miss your earthly flesh and we cry out because of earthly feelings. But we Thank God that He chose us to be your parents. We Thank God that He chose you to prepare our place in Heaven. Because we know you'll get the best. And we Thank God for this prayer:

Now I lay me down to sleep
I pray the Lord my soul to keep
If I should die before I wake
I pray the Lord my soul to take.

You slept with us sixteen days before the Lord took your soul to shine down on us from Heaven.

The Guardian Angel we placed over your heart was kissed by ours and we will wear it representing we will Never Ever part from you.

We'll talk to you daily from now until Eternity.

Love you forever,

MOM AND DAD.

HONORING THE HENDERSONVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Hendersonville Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice-monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study

the latest videos featuring the latest in firefighting tactics, and well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well-trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

BENJAMIN BURROUGHS, HAWAII'S
1996 RESPECTEEN WINNER

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, as part of the Lutheran Brotherhood's Speak For Yourself program, over 15,000 students nationwide wrote to their Members of Congress on various public policy issues. Benjamin Burroughs, an eighth grader from my district, was chosen as the Hawaii State winner of the letter writing contest. In his thoughtful letter regarding persons with disabilities, he drew from his brother's experience with autism. He effectively argued that Congress should strengthen the Individuals with Disabilities Act and increase public awareness on the issue.

Benjamin is only 14 years old, but he wrote an excellent letter on a complex topic. I applaud his concern and willingness to take action on a matter that directly affects his family. Benjamin attends Kahuku High and Intermediate School. I join with his parents, Lonia and Jeffery Burroughs of Laie, HI, to congratulate Benjamin on an outstanding effort. The text of his letter is as follows:

January 30, 1996.

Hon PATSY MINK,
U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE MINK. I believe that with the new conservative Republican swing, there is a pressing problem that is like firecracker with a lit fuse waiting to burst. These legislators intend to put more power with the individual states and less with the federal government. This scares me because it is highly likely that some states will cut funding for the education of people with disabilities. In 1981 when federal law required education for children with mental disabilities from ages 3-5, states were given ten years to comply. Many states complied quickly but many did not. An example of this was South Carolina who waited until the last minute of the deadline to comply.

Early childhood intervention is a must. It is statistically proven that if children with disabilities are taught at an early age, they will be better able to function in society. If persons with disabilities are not taught early so that they can become productive members of society then they become financial burdens on society. It pays to intervene early.

My brother is autistic and if power goes to the states, a worst-case scenario would be

that he couldn't go to school altogether. There are two major things that you can do as a representative to solve this problem. First, influence other legislators to sustain the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act [I.D.E.A.] and to maintain current federal mandates protecting the rights of persons with disabilities. Second is to require a module in every Guidance/Health class in High School that will increase the overall education of everyone about persons with disabilities.

I think that if these two things are done then my brother and thousands of persons with disabilities will be able to have a good education and a better life.

Sincerely,

BEN BURROUGHS.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I regret my absence for rollcall No. 155, a motion to allow committees to sit. I was unavoidably detained at a legislative conference on the Senate side of the Capitol.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING THE VISION IMPAIRMENT CENTER TO OPTIMIZE REMAINING SIGHT [VICTORS] OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 1996

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, it is a distinguished pleasure to announce to you that Mr. Joseph Maino, O.D. will receive the Olin E. Teague Award today on behalf of the Vision Impairment Center To Optimize Remaining Sight [VICTORS] team of Kansas City, MO.

VICTORS is a Department of Veterans Affairs special medical program designed to provide optimum low vision rehabilitation services to veterans with visual impairments. The team members evaluate, diagnose, and rehabilitate veterans from a six-State area: Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. More than twenty medical centers and outpatient clinics refer blind and visually impaired veterans to the program. The center has helped more than 1,500 veterans since it first opened in 1979. The team members' continuing creativity and dedication results in innovative methods and tools to combat the effects of severe vision loss. For this reason, our Nation's veterans live better and more fulfilling lives.

The Olin E. Teague Award is the highest honor the VA awards in the field of rehabilitation. It is presented annually to a VA employee, or group of employees working as a team, whose achievements have been of extraordinary benefit to veterans with service-connected disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, the name Olin E. Teague is synonymous with exemplary service to the Nation's veterans and is the reason this award bears his name. The late Congressman Teague served on the House Veterans' Affairs